Development of Women and Children

734. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted some groups of women in the country since implementation of the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas;

(b) if so, details thereof with functions of the same;

(c) whether Government propose to utilise these groups in other activities in case the objectives of DWCRA are achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The scheme for Development for Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was in existence form 1982-83 to 1998-99 as a sub-scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). From 1.4.1999, IRDP and its allied programme including DWCRA were merged into the present self-employment programme *i.e.* Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

The primary objective of DWCRA was focussing attention on women members of the rural families below poverty line with a view to providing them opportunities of self-employment on a sustained basis. DWCRA thus focussed on providing income generating skill and activities to poor women in rural areas in order to improve their social and economic status. It also sought to encourage the habit of thrift and credit among them. In addition, the programme aimed to enhance the welfare and quality of life of BPL family and community by improving the access of rural women to health, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition etc. A distinguishing feature of DWCRA was group strategy as against family as a unit of assistance under IRDP. The group strategy was adopted to motivate the rural women to come together and to break social bonds, which had denied them income generating and fulfilling opportunites. Each group comprised of about 10—15 members which was provided a revolving fund amounting to Rs. 15,000/- upto 1994-95 and

Rs. 25000/- from 1995-96. The fund was meant for the purpose of purchase of raw materials and marketing, honorarium to group organizer, infrastructure support for income generating and other group activities etc. The fund was shared equally by the Central Government and State Governments on 50-50 basis. In the case of Union Territories, Government of India provided cent per cent grant. (Prior to 1996-97, expenditure on Revolving Fund was shared between Central Government, State Government and UNICEF on 40:40:20 basis).

Since inception upto 1998-99 a total of 2,72,722 groups were formed under DWCRA comprising 41,44,705 members. The central funds released to States/UTs during this period were Rs. 389.90 crore.

(c) and (d) DWCRA groups of quality can be adopted in SGSY. The SGSY guidelines already provided for that. DRDAs have to put in concerted efforts to strengthen the groups formed under DWCRA during first year of SGSY.

Women and Child Welfare Schemes in Bihar

†735. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of women and child welfare schemes in Bihar sponsored by the Central Government during the last three years;

(b) the amount allocated for the above schemes during the said period;

(c) whether the allocated amount was utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.